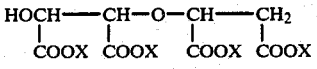
(b) the molar ratio of calcium cations to tartaric acid used in forming the reaction mixture ranges from about 0.8:1 to 1.5:1.

15. A process according to claim **12** wherein the molar ratio of calcium to tartrate succinate reaction products is reduced to less than about 1:20 by addition to the reaction mixture of a precipitating agent selected from alkali metal carbonate, alkali metal bicarbonate and mixtures thereof.

16. A process according to claim **12** wherein the aqueous reaction mixture is maintained at a temperature of from about 50° C. to 80° C. for a period of from about 0.5 to 10 hours.

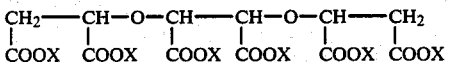
17. A detergent composition comprising from about 0.5% to 98% by weight of a surfactant and from about 2% to 99.5% by weight of a builder component selected from the group consisting of

(a) tartrate monosuccinic acid, or salt thereof, of the structure



wherein X is H or a salt-forming cation;

(b) tartrate disuccinic acid, or salt thereof, of the structure:



wherein X is H or a salt-forming cation, or

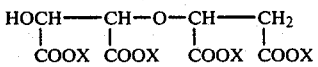
(c) a combination of said tartrate monosuccinic acid or salt and said tartrate disuccinic acid or salt, in a weight ratio of tartrate monosuccinic acid or salt, to tartrate disuccinic acid or salt, of from about 97:3 to 20:80.

18. A detergent composition according to claim **17** which contains from about 5% to 95% by weight of an additional component selected from the group consisting of additional detergent builders, chelating agents, enzymes, fabric whiteners and brighteners, sudsing control agents, solvents, hydrotropes, bleaching agents, bleach precursors, buffering agents, soil removal/anti-redeposition agents, soil release agents, fabric softening agents, perfumes, solvents, opacifiers and combinations of said additional components.

19. A laundry additive composition comprising

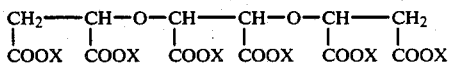
(A) from about 2% to 99.5% by weight of a builder component selected from the group consisting of

(i) tartrate monosuccinic acid, or salt thereof, of the structure



wherein X is H or a salt-forming cation;

(ii) tartrate disuccinic acid, or salt thereof, of the structure:



wherein X is H or a salt-forming cation, or

(iii) a combination of said tartrate monosuccinic acid or salt and said tartrate disuccinic acid or salt, in a weight ratio of tartrate monosuccinic acid or salt, to tartrate disuccinic acid or salt, of from about 97:3 to 20:80; and

(B) from about 0.5% to 98% by weight of a laundry adjuvant selected from the group consisting of surfactants, additional detergent builders, chelating agents, enzymes, fabric whiteners and brighteners, sudsing control agents, solvents, hydrotropes, bleaching agents, bleach precursors, buffering agents, soil removal/anti-redeposition agents, soil release agents, fabric softening agents, perfumes, colorants, opacifiers and combinations of said laundry adjuvants.

20. A laundry additive composition according to claim **19** wherein

(A) the builder component comprises a combination of sodium tartrate monosuccinate and sodium tartrate disuccinate; and

(B) the laundry adjuvant is selected from surfactants, bleaching agents, bleach precursors, enzymes and combinations of said laundry adjuvants.

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